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Security Message to U.S. Citizens:

Embassy Skopje has been alerted of a planned protest today in Skopje at 1:00 PM in front of the Monument of Mother Theresa. The protest is organized by a group calling themselves "Stop Police Brutality", and is organized in response to the recent deaths of two individuals by a Police Officer in Gostivar. The protest was not pre-announced and cleared by Macedonian Police.

Additionally, the organization is requesting all citizens of Macedonia to join them by protesting peacefully in their respective towns as a display of solidarity for the victims of the incident in Gostivar. Specifically, a protest at the Gostivar Court Building is expected.

The number of participants and duration of the protest is not known.

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Macedonia from time to time in response to world events or local developments. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can become violent and unpredictable. You should avoid them if at all possible. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what the local news media has to say.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the <u>U.S. Embassy's website</u>. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's <u>Bureau of Consular Affairs website</u>, where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates --1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the <u>State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u>. The <u>U.S. Embassy</u> is located at ul. Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje. The telephone number is (389) 2-310-2000, <u>e-mail</u>.